

Amendments to the claims:

1. (original) A process for producing a taste-masked composition comprising an ionic active compound and a functionalized polymer matrix, said process comprising the steps of loading said functionalized polymer matrix with said active compound to produce a loaded matrix, and washing said loaded matrix with a nonpolar solvent.
2. (original) The process of claim 1, wherein the ionic active compound is a basic active compound and the functionalized polymer matrix is a polymeric matrix having anionic functional groups.
3. (currently amended) The process of claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, wherein the nonpolar solvent used for washing the loaded matrix is a solvent having a polarity index less than 5.
4. (original) The process of claim 3 wherein said solvent has a polarity index less than 3.
5. (original) The process of claim 3 wherein said solvent has a polarity index less than 1.
6. (currently amended) The process according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1-5~~, wherein said nonpolar solvent is selected from the group consisting of pentane, hexane, heptane, octane, cyclopentane, cyclohexane, methyl cyclohexane, ethyl cyclohexane, and carbon disulfide.
7. (currently amended) The process according to claim 2 ~~any one of claims 2-6~~, wherein the polymeric matrix having anionic functional groups used is a hydrogen form cation exchange resin, and wherein the active-loaded hydrogen form cation exchange resin obtained is further neutralized with a metal ion.
8. (original) The process of claim 7 wherein said metal ion is sodium or potassium.
9. (original) An active-containing ion exchange resin composition comprising a cation exchange resin having anionic functional groups and a basic active compound bound thereto, wherein at least 60% of said functional groups are bound by said active compound and said ion exchange resin composition is substantially free of said active compound that is unbound to said cation exchange resin.
10. (original) The active-containing ion exchange resin composition of claim 9 wherein said cation exchange resin has at least 70% of said functional groups bound by said active compound.

11. (currently amended) The active-containing ion exchange resin composition of claim 9 or ~~claim 10~~,
wherein the active is a pharmaceutically active,
which composition comprises less than about 10 µg of the active compound that is unbound to the ion exchange resin for each gram of said composition, and
wherein at least about 50 wt% of said composition comprises the bound active compound.

12. (original) The composition of claim 11 wherein at least 60 wt% of said composition comprises the bound active compound.

13. (currently amended) The taste masked composition according to claim 9 ~~any one of claims 9-12~~,
wherein said cation exchange resin is a weak cation exchange resin having carboxylic acid functional groups,
wherein said active is dextromethorphan, and
wherein said composition is substantially free of unbound dextromethorphan and is adapted to rapidly release said active in the stomach.

14. (original) A method for improving an organoleptic property of a hydrogen form cation exchange resin loaded with an active compound, comprising neutralizing said ion exchange resin with a metal ion.

15. (original) The method of claim 14 wherein said metal ion is sodium or potassium.